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Subject: Hazing

ORIGINAL

We are getting ready to conduct re-vegetation activities at the 12th Street Site in Wilmington, DE. The activities will hopefully be started in the end of March. The activities will include planting wetland/tidal species (e.g., arrow arum, pickerel weed, bulrush) in a sedimentation pond to be converted to tidal area. The activities will also include planting a variety of grasses in the non-tidal areas. The grasses (e.g., Rice Cut-grass, sedge, switchgrass, others) are under evaluation, but will be selected to coincide with the probable moisture content of the area to be planted. We will have a goose problem.

Geese, whether they are residents or part of a migratory bunch is unknown, routinely (twice daily) visit our birdfeeder. They ate most of our winter rye and have had quite the time cruising our sedimentation pond. We'll need to control them until our vegetation is established. Otherwise, it looks like we'll be fighting a potentially losing battle.

Since they are Migratory birds, I understand that we'll need a "permit" to conduct hazing operations.

I have evaluated some options and propose to use a combination of tactics. First, I propose to use big mylar balloons and flags to scare them away. We'll move them around and see if it works. I'd rather not stake the Site since it may make our access just as difficult as it would be for the geese. If the balloons don't work, I propose some sort of periodic pyrotechnics or cannon.

What do you need from me in order to allow us to haze the geese.

What would you think if I could find an organization that used falcons or bird dogs ??